THE

PREFACE.

IT having Pleas'd the Divine Providence to Translate Our Late Gracious Sovereign of Blessed Memory, That Most Merciful Prince, King Charles the Second, from an Earthly to a Heavenly Crown, on Friday the 6th of February 1684. in the 37th Year of His Reign, and 55th Year of His Age; Whereby the Imperial Crown of the Realms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, did, by due Right of Succession, Descend upon His only Surviving Brother, and undoubted Heir, the most Illustrious Prince, James Duke of York and Albany, Earl of Ulster, &c. (Second Son of the Late Royal Martyr King Charles the First) Who was thereupon that Afternoon Proclaimed King, by the Title of King James the Second, with a Joy as Universal, as the greatness of the Sorrow for the loss of so Excellent a Prince could possibly admit: His Majesty (Our now most Gracious Sovereign,) had no sooner taken Care for the Funerals of His Dear and Royal Brother Deceased, (which were performed on Saturday the 14th of the said Month of February,) but He forthwith took Order for His Own and His Royal Consorts Coronation. To which end having appointed a Committee of all the Lords of His Privy Council, to consider of the manner thereof; and having Gratiously condescended, not only to be Present, and Assist thereat, in His Own Royal Person, but also, for the greater Ease and Dispatch, to Debate and Adjust most of the Previous Matters in a Select Committee of those Lords, and particularly to Model the Proceeding thereunto, in that Glorious Manner in which it appeared. And having thought fit, that the Memory thereof should remain to Posterity, and that the several Advances which were made towards the Performing this Great Solemnity, should be carefully Digested and Recorded, was Pleas'd to Order, That the whole Ceremony, with all its Circumstances, should be Printed and Illustrated with Sculpture, Committing it to the Care of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal of England, to see the same perform'd accordingly.

Whereupon I having applied my self unto his Grace, some few days before the Coronation, to have the Compileing and Publishing thereof; and to take to my Assistance, Mr. Gregory King Rougedragon Pursuivant of Arms, (a Gentleman whose Abilities and Qualifications in this kind were well known unto his Grace;) And that withal I might have leave to apply my self to His Majesty, for His Royal Bounty towards the car-

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